| The Soul of San Diego |
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| Keeping Balboa Park Magnificent In its Second Century |
| Jenney, 2006 |
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Looking at the Future of Balboa Park Those of us who are very interested in the future of Balboa Park and work to ensure its preservation and enhancement are pleased to know that an important process has begun. On January 30, 2008, a report, "The Soul of San Diego: Keeping Balboa Park Magnificent In Its Second Century," was released. The report, commissioned by the Legler Benbough, Parker and San Diego Foundations, describes the park's current conditions, some

deferred needs, and opens a discussion on the future governance of Balboa Park. The findings in the study reflect 2,800 interviews, examination of the park's present and future needs, and analysis of options for at least three different forms of governance.

Please visit: www.friendsofbalboapark.org to read about the report and follow a link to view a copy of the 187 page report. The Mayor and Councilmember Toni Atkins have asked the Balboa Park Committee, the appointed volunteer committee that reviews land-use matters in the park, to engage the public in a discussion of the report and to provide a recommendation to the Mayor and the City Council on the future stewardship of Balboa Park.

The Balboa Park Committee hosted a well-attended public forum on Saturday, March 8. Study author presentations were followed by public questions. Taping of that morning workshop can be viewed online in its entirety following a link from the Friend's website: www.friendsofbalboapark.org.

Noted Councilmember Toni Atkins: "The Balboa Park Committee has committed themselves to an open and transparent discussion of all the facts. These meetings promise to be vigorous and I invite all San Diegans to participate." A schedule of future public hearings on this study will be posted on www.balboapark.org. If groups would like to make organized presentations to the committee, please contact Ms.V. Granowitz, Chair of the Balboa Park Committee, for further information at 619.584.1203 or e-mail: vdgwrl@aol.com." 1866

Toni Atkins is hopeful the community will be engaged as the process moves forward: "I continue to be impressed by the comments I've received since the release of the report and how so many of us have a sense of ownership for this priceless public resource. It is quite evident we care greatly for Balboa Park and want the best for it. I look forward to your sharing input and thoughts over the next few months at upcoming Balboa Park Committee meetings....I am confident that with your involvement in this upcoming public discussion, the health and viability of the crown jewel of our park system will be protected for future generations."†

In parallel with this effort, The Friends along with The San Diego Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Commission have funded a study by the Trust for Public Land to quantify the economic value of the San Diego Park System. The contribution from Balboa Park will be included in that work which should become available before May 2008.

